What is claimed is:

1. An L-threonine-producing bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia,* wherein the bacterium has been modified to enhance an activity of aspartate aminotransferase.

2. The bacterium of claim 1, wherein said activity of aspartate aminotransferase is enhanced by increasing the expression of an aspartate aminotransferase gene.

3. The bacterium of claim 1, wherein said activity of aspartate aminotransferase is increased by a method selected from the group consisting of increasing the copy number of the aspartate aminotransferase gene, and modifying an expression control sequence of said gene so that the expression of said gene is enhanced.

4. The bacterium according to claim 3, wherein said activity of aspartate aminotransferase is increased by increasing the copy number of the aspartate aminotransferase gene.

5. The bacterium of claim 4, wherein the copy number is increased by transformation of said bacterium with a low copy vector containing said gene.

6. The bacterium of claim 2 , wherein said aspartate aminotransferase gene is originated from a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia.*

7. The bacterium of claim 6, wherein said aspartate aminotransferase gene encodes a protein selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(B) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence including deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of one or several amino acids in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, and which has an activity of aspartate aminotransferase.

8. The bacterium of claim 6, wherein said aspartate aminotransferase gene comprises DNA selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence of the nucleotides 1 to 1196 in SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(b) a DNA which is hybridizable with a nucleotide sequence of the nucleotides 1-1196 in SEQ ID NO:1 or a probe which can be prepared from said nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions, and codes for a protein having an activity of aspartate aminotransferase.

9. The bacterium of claim 8, wherein said stringent conditions are washing at 60°C and at a salt concentration corresponding to 1 x SSC and 0.1 % SDS.

10. The bacterium of claim 2, wherein said bacterium has been further modified to enhance expression of one or more genes selected from the group consisting of

- the mutant *thrA* gene which codes for aspartokinase homoserine dehydrogenase I resistant to feed back inhibition by threonine;
- the *thrB* gene, which codes for homoserine kinase;
- the *thrC* gene, which codes for threonine synthase; and
- the *rhtA* gene, which codes for putative transmembrane protein.

11. The bacterium of claim 10, wherein said bacterium has been modified to increase expression of said mutant *thrA* gene, said *thrB* gene, said *thrC* gene and said *rhtA* gene.

12. A method for producing L- threonine which comprises cultivating the bacterium of claim 1 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate L-threonine in the culture medium, and collecting the L-threonine from the culture medium.